

The Examination of Jesus (Mark 11:27-12:12)

Proposition: I believe that in this text the Lord Jesus lays to rest many of the questions of the world both then and now and in the end reveal himself to be the Christ, the messiah, God manifest in the flesh and poses some questions of His own

- I. **He Diffuses Their Questions** (Vs. 27-33)
 - A. He Diffuses By a Reversal (Vs. 28-30)
 - B. He Diffuses By a Revealing (Vs. 31-33)
- II. **He Designates Their Character** (Vs. 12:1-12)
 - A. A Criminal Character (Vs. 1-3)
 - B. A Continuing Character (Vs. 4-5)
 - C. A Killing Character (Vs. 6-8)
 - D. A Careless Character (Vs. 9)
- III. **He Declares Their Contradiction** (Vs. 10-12)
 - A. A Contradiction of the Scriptures (Vs. 10)
 - B. A Contradiction of the Sovereign (Vs. 11)
 - C. A Contradiction of the Saviour (Vs. 12)

The Examination of Jesus (Mark 11: 27-33)

This would seem to be a great week to preach the text before us tonight because many of our children are enduring a week of intensive standardized tests. I still get smugly palms just thinking about the word "test." A time when the outside world can probe into what you do and don't know in your brain. Well in our text some of the religious leaders of the day came to Jesus to place him under their theological microscope. Jesus response was to turn the tables so that the one who was to be tested became the teacher. The pupil became the professor. The student was found to be the superior. In our world today, Jesus is very much under the microscope of the world. The arguments and the questions have changed and I believe that in this text the Lord Jesus lay to rest many of the questions of the world then and now and in the end reveals himself to be the Christ.

I. He Diffuses their Questions - When antagonists come questioning the Lord Jesus, his response to them was a question this is no different. He diffuses

their questions in a few different ways

A. By Reversal - Their question was basically "Who do you think you are?" This was not the question of a seeking heart, but one with intent to condemn Jesus. Jesus then turns the whole situation on its head. He asks them a question. He puts them under the scrutiny. The authority is reversed. That's the way of it today. I remember when I went to that liberal college and took these Bible class, come here w/ a load of questions. But when I sat there Sunday under the preaching

B. By Revealing - Jesus questions them concerning John the Baptist. Why him? If a person will not respond to the light God has given, then God is not obligated to give further illumination. Their response was - that middle of the road, childish answer, "I don't know." It's not that they didn't know, but that their deep seated hypocrisy would not permit them to say. Jesus is revealing their sin. I believe that the Gospel of Jesus has that same diffusing power when it is preached.

II. He Designates Their Characters

I was listening to an old mountain preacher the other day. And boy that preacher did what they used to call "read my

1) ..the Christ, the messiah, God manifest in the flesh and poses some questions of His own.

2) ...the preaching of the word, my questions melted away and the scrutinizing word of God placed me under it's inspection! I believe that all the questions the sinful heart of a lost sinner can conjure up in their depraved mind can and will be answered in time, but first the question from the word of God concerning our sin and our eternal destiny must be answered first!!!

3) ...preached. It melts away our questions and reveals our heart of sin.

title clear, ring my bell, Boy that's what happens here

A. **A Criminal Character** - In the parable a wealthy wise wonderful handsome planted a vineyard, protected it planned it, He said, "It belonged to him! He had every right to the property (Vs 3) every right to the fruits thereof. When one was sent to retrieve, he abused him.

B. **A Continuing Character** - If you were renting out a place and sent someone to collect the rent and the renter you so graciously allowed to have there abused servant, you'd call the cops. Bring Judgment, but what do we see, the owner sending another servant, get only the same.

C. **A Killing Character** - They had already killed some of the servants, but the owner hoping to change their hearts sends his only son. Vs 6 "Surly they..." The scene of the renter was not only to refuse the fruit but to altogether take the land by killing the heir. (Vs 7)

D. **A Careless Character** (Vs 9) They were careless when it came to the impending Judgment of the owner. Careless to a day of reckoning. Historically Israel given the bejeweled, stole it, rejected prophets, would tell only son. Vineyard be given to all who believe. Personally

III. He Declares Their Contradiction
By their opposition to Jesus, these men stand in contradiction to God! They want to preserve the vineyard

place them selves at war with God.

A. Contradiction of Scripture -

vs 10 "Have you not read?" "These were the theological elite, the height of the intelligence, the scholars, and Jesus asks 'don't you just read the Bible. I like what one old preacher said 'They were educated beyond intelligence.' The Scripture foretold of their doing. The Stone - Messiah. Ex 17:6 Rom 2:34 Zech 4:7

B. Contradiction of the Sovereign -

vs 11 - This is the work of God! This is what God is doing. The heavenly father has sent his only begotten to you. And you are rejecting him! This which should be seen a marvel in your eyes, is contradicted in your heart! They had rejected the Son and refused the Stone!

C. Contradiction of the Saviour -

The man that stood before them, son of man, son of God was to the later crucified on a cross, buried in a tomb and raised back to life. Not only for the sake of those that followed and loved him but for those that despised and rejected him. And all they could do was wonder how

IV. Closing. I believe that we can safely say that Jesus passed his exam a flying colors. But what happened was the testing tables were turned and the exam was not of the Saviour but of Self. Still refine?

- 1) Psalm 118:22-23 which is quoted here is a reference to the Messiah. They are rejecting the messiah and in doing so contradicting the scripture.

- 2) ...the Stone. Peter would summon these words before them again and remind them of their contradiction in Acts 4:10-12 Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.
- 3) ...how they could get their hand on Him in order to kill him.